

SOMB Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Sex Offender Management Board was called to order on July 21, 2011. Illinois State Police, District 6 Headquarters, Pontiac, Illinois. Chairperson Cara Smith was unable to attend the meeting. Board member Amy Campanelli called the meeting to order.

PRESENT:

Member(s):

Dr. Michael Bednarz, Amy Campanelli, Sheryl Essenburg, Steve Goytia, Robin McGinnis, Verlin Meinz, Mickie Owens, Harry Reed, Alyssa Schafer, Abdi Tinwalla, Dick Winkler

Non-Member(s):

Alesia Crockett (Attorney General's Office), Tracy Tholin (9th Judicial Circuit), Peggy Tuszynski (9th Judicial Circuit), Shawn Oetzel (Tazewell County Probation), Kelly McConkey (Tazewell County Probation)

ABSENT:

Member(s):

Excused: Cara Smith, Shauna Boliker, Carol Corgan, Pat Delfino, Tracie Newton, Lisa Stephens, Dustin Sutton, Dr. Abdi Tinwalla

Unexcused: B. Kent Jones

A. Welcome/Roll Call

B. Review of Meeting Minutes: July 20, 2011

A motion was made by Steve Goytia and seconded by Alyssa Schafer to approve the minutes for the May 19, 2011 meeting. All Board members present approved the motion.

C. Audit: Discussion of the Findings

The SOMB was audited for fiscal years 2009 and 2010. Alesia Crockett provided an overview of the audit. The Board received three findings:

1. Failure to establish or plan for offender tracking system
2. Failure to develop and implement measure of success
3. Board not fully seated

The Board decided to have the Legislative Committee review the findings and develop a corrective action plan to address these issues. Amy Campanelli stated the Legislative Committee has plans to meet in August 2011 and will discuss the findings.

In addition, the Board would like to be notified of any draft audit reports and be given the opportunity to review and provide input before a response to any findings are made.

D. Board Structure

1. Membership-Resignations

Alesia Crockett informed that Board that Jerry Isikoff resigned from the Board on June 3, 2011. He was the Attorney General's Office licensed mental health representative. This position may not be filled until the outcome of SB265 has been determined.

Patti Sudendorf resigned effective July 7, 2011 as the Attorney General's Office State's Attorney representative.

In total the Board has five vacancies. The current vacancies are: Governor Appointments- two judges and one law enforcement officer; Attorney General Appointments -one Assistant State's Attorney and one licensed mental health professional.

2. Revamping the Current Structure

The Board discussed various ways to fill the vacancies. Verlin Mainz stated the Board should review the By-Laws as it relates to the role and responsibility of the chairperson and consider appointing a co-chair. The Appointment Committee will look into this issue. Alesia Crockett agreed to email a copy of the By-Laws to the Committee.

E. Discussion: Qualifications for Evaluators

Dr. Michael Bednarz expressed the need to have licensed evaluators. He believes the current requirement of a bachelor's degree is not sufficient. Dr. Bednarz is currently reviewing the current Standards and would like to update the Adult Standards to require the same licensure as the Juvenile Standards.

Update: Non-Licensed Juvenile Providers

Alesia Crockett reported originally there were 53 Non-Licensed Juvenile Providers. Of those, 24 would not be able to obtain licensure and requested to participate in the Board's alternative. The Board's alternative required (1) they attend a mandatory training, (2) complete three on-line workshops and (3) agree to 10 hours of SOMB sponsored training annually regarding assessment and/or treatment of juvenile sex offenders. Of the 24, 15 completed Part 1 and 2, five were removed and three can only provide services to adults.

However, one provider completed Part 1 and only completed two of the required three on-line workshops. The provider stated they were not aware of the need to complete three on-line workshops. Alesia firmly stated to the Board that the provider initialed and signed the agreement that states "I understand and agree to the following: to complete three-one line workshops through NEARI". The Board requested the provider submit a letter explaining why the workshop was not completed and provide a date when it will be completed. The provider's letter of response will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

F. Legislation Update: SB265

It was reported that SB265 which eliminates four members of the Board was sent to the Governor on June 9, 2011. Steve Goytia stated he drafted a letter and Illinois Probation

Services and Court Association (IPSCA) President David Beery signed it. In addition, Amy Campanelli stated the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender sent a letter to the Governor's office. Both letters were requesting the Governor veto the bill.

G. Non-Licensed Juvenile Provider Update

Duplicate entry. Please refer to Item E for report on this topic.

H. SOMB Committee Reports

Standards and Guidelines & Research

Dr. Michael Bednarz stated the Committee will meet via conference call on August 18, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Quality Assurance of Providers & Ethics and Conflict of Interest

Harry Reed stated the Committee is currently looking into the "Request for Proposal" process to find a credentialing agency to review Approved Provider applications. In addition, they are conducting research to see how other agency handle processing provider information.

Funding

Verlin Mainz stated the Committee is currently reviewing the reimbursement process which shows that every county does not collect registration fees.

Alesia reported as of the end of June 30, 2011 the Fund balance was \$56,623.03. Program account (reimbursements to locals) = \$37,634.75; and Operations account (travel, training, postage, etc.) = \$18,988.28.

Appointment

No report.

Legislative

Amy Campanelli reported the Committee has a final draft of the letter to the legislature ready for review. They will remove Jerry Isikoff and Patti Sudendorf from the letter and email the letter to the Board for review. The Committee plans to mail the letter to the home office of each legislator.

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for August 30, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. via conference call.

I. New Business

Alesia Crockett stated Dr. Abdi Tinwalla was unable attend the meeting and sent the following statement via email:

"Please pass the message to the Board that my presentation at the International Academy of Law and Mental Health in Berlin Germany went very well and people showed great interest in our program and mission."

Visitor Comment

Peggy Tuszynski and Tracy Tholin of the 9th Judicial Circuit attended the meeting to ask the Board a question regarding sex offender specific evaluations.

Peggy stated that judges (and attorneys, SA/PD) continue to request sex offender specific evaluations on juveniles prior to a plea or finding of guilt. Some defense attorneys are signing waivers of their client's rights, stating that any information about the current offense will not be used against them if the case should continue to trial. SOMB/ATSA rules indicate that the report should only occur at the time of adjudication.

The Board agreed that it should be completed post conviction. However it can be before or after. Robin McGinnis stated ATSA recommends post adjudication.

Sheryl Essenburg commented by stating that the Sangamon County State's Attorney routinely will do them prior to a plea but only when the defendant/juvenile respondent is willing to admit to at least some sexual offending. It makes no sense to do them when the defendant/respondent is denying.

J. Next Meeting: September 15, 2011, Video Conferencing, Illinois Department of Corrections, Springfield and Chicago

K. Adjournment